Copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance sheet of the Department of Communications.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on Accrual Basis) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1994-95 (Hindi and English versions).

(Placed in Library, See No. LT–513/96)

13.05 1/4 hrs.

[English]

Standing Committee on Railways

First Report and Minutes

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Railways on 'Budgetary Support to Railways' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

13.05 1/2 hrs.

Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests

Thirty-seventh Report

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (JALPAIGURI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

13.05 3/4 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SPEAKER

(i) Constitution of a House Committee to Inquire into Alleged Misconduct of Member

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Shri Ram Naik had given on 26 August, 1996, notice of a motion for constituting a special House Committee to inquire into the alleged misconduct of Shri Sukh Ram, a Member and fomer Union Minister.

The notice given by Shri Ram Naik rests broadly on two grounds, *viz.*, (i) that the Central Bureau of Investigation recovered huge amount of cash in raids conducted at the residence of Shri Sukh Ram which according to Shri Naik is presumbly unaccounted money (ii) that Shri Sukh Ram failed to intimate the Lok Sabha Secretariat about his foreign visit.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, I caused copies of Shri Ram Naik's notice to be forwarded to Shri Sukh Ram for furnishing his comments for my consideration. I also called for a factual note from the Department of Personnel and Training.

I have since received a factual note from the Department of Personnel and Training intimating that two criminal cases under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the Indian Penal Code have been registered against Shri Sukh Ram and the same are under investigation.

The Department of Personnel and Training have also invited my attention to the observations of the hon Supreme Court in ISRO Spy Case, SLP (Crl.) No. 942/1995 that interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralise the investigation.

A fax message from Shri Sukh Ram from London has also been received on 11 September, 1996, confirming the receipt of our communication and intimating : "I am still not keeping well and therefore I will be sending my reply in due course of time. Please bear with me."

As regards the observation of the Supreme Court, to which the Department of Personnel and Training have invited our attention that interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralise the investigation, I feel that discussion in the House on any matter may not be termed as interference in investigation. Moreover, as per the well established Parliamentary convention, in criminal cases, the rule of *sub-judice* has application only from the time a charge sheet is filed. That stage has not yet reached in this case.

In view of the gravity of the matter and the far reaching implications it has for the Member as well as for the dignity of this House, I am of the considered opinion that the principles of natural justice should be conformed to and we should not proceed hastily without considering the comments of Shri Sukh Ram. I am, therefore, inclined to keep the matter pending for the present.

(ii) Seating of Breakaway Group of Samata Party

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have another small announcement to make.

Hon, Members, I have to inform the House that on 2 August, 1996, I received a jointly signed letter from Sarvashri Chandra Shekhar, Ram Bahadur Singh and Bhakta Charan Das, Members of Parliament intimating me that at a meeting of Samata Party held on 2nd August, 1996, the said three members had